

Hillsborough Educators Association - Retired

Vol. 19 Issue 8

February 2025

February greetings to all! Please join us on Weds. Feb 19 at 10 am at CTA, 3102 N. Habana Ave, Tampa 33607 for a presentation on the ABCDs of Medicare by Angela Birdsong.

Barb Toepke, President
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Last month we heard from Sabrina Gates of CTechEd who explained all the class offerings for educators in National Board, ESP topics, and recertification. We can sign up for their book discussions at sabrina.gates@cteched.com.

Feb 12: Science fair judging.

Feb 19: ABCDs of Medicare with Angela Birdsong.

Mar: Field trip to James Museum.

Apr 16: Scott Turner, APWU.

Please help judge at the **Elementary STEM Fair!** Judges work in pairs to interview students in grades 3-5 at the Convention Center on February 12. Email Michele.Wiehagen@hcps.net or call her at 813-892-1555 to volunteer.

The **FEA DA** meets Oct 9-12 in Orlando. **NEA-R** meets on June 29-30 and **NEA** on July 2-6 in Portland, OR. Look for an email next week on how to nominate yourself to be an **elected delegate!** Last year we sent 6 members to FEA-Retired and elected 7 members for the DA.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

1 Geneva M	21 Aura P
2 Jean C	23 MaryAnne P
5 Estella C	24 Sharon H
6 Janet N	24 Jim R
8 Nancy B	25 Mirta M
10 Linda P	26 John B
15 Rhoda G	26 Mary B
15 Katherine E	27 Helen S
17 Mary G	

Norma Goff, Recording Secretary.

We work so many volunteer hours that are not being reported! Please send me your hours so I can report them monthly to FEA-Retired. Call 813-431-0314 or email me at ngoff48@gmail.com.

The **James Museum of Western Art** is in downtown St. Petersburg. Call Norma to sign up to carpool for our trip March 19th. More information to follow.

Vote by Mail requests expired for everyone Dec 31, 2024. Be sure to sign up again this year! Tell your friends and family to sign up at their county's Supervisor of Elections office. In Tampa see votehillsborough.gov. VBMs used to be continuous but that changed with a Florida law passed in 2021.

Our sincere condolences go to the family of Alma Bowers. She was active in HCTA and kept our meeting attendance in recent years. See our Jan 27 email for more information on her life of service.

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Stephen Tabin, Vice President

Thank you to members of our Leadership Team for distributing over 130 flyers to potential new members of HEA-R at the HCPS Retirement Seminar in January.

The flyers included information about attending one of our meetings at CTA as well as a membership application. Suzy Buchanan, Norma Goff, Barb Toepke and Stephen Tabin spoke with attendees and explained the benefits of being a member. If you want to join us next year, keep this Seminar in mind for late January 2026.

School Board Meetings for this month are Feb 11 and Feb 25 from 4-6 pm. Watch them at Frontier 32 or Spectrum 635.

Go to hillsboroughschools.org for more information. At the Jan 28 meeting Supt. Ayres reported that most federal funds for HCPS are not part of the recent federal executive orders, with only one grant in doubt. Board members approved contracts for IB and literacy programs. A delay in property tax collections due to the hurricanes is being resolved.

The Florida State Fair runs Feb 6-17. Check their website for Senior days.

[Registration is now open](#) for FEA's virtual legislative Power Hours! For interim committee weeks, Power Hour will take place on Feb. 4, 11, and 18 at 5:30 p.m. EST.

During this hour FEA will provide updates on what is happening in the legislature as well as take collective action to advance FEA's legislative priorities. [Join us on Zoom](#) for this informative and engaging opportunity to advocate for better pay and working conditions.

FEA President Andrew Spar talks about the issues on Power Hour and the staff presents a detailed power point on one bill. They give us a script and ask us to call a certain leader or just our own senator or representative. Please join them to call and to stay informed.

Social Security and Medicare are vital programs for seniors. Call your US Reps Bilirakis, Buchanan, Castor, Lee or Luna to protect these programs. Look up their voting records at retiredamericans.org and read FLARA summaries of proposed legislation. Kathy Castor votes 100% for senior issues as detailed in summaries of ten bills, but the others do not.